



Representing the communities of Agoura, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Encino, Hidden Hills, Lake Sherwood, Malibu, Oak Park, Pacific Palisades, Port Hueneme, portions of Sherman Oaks, portions of Oxnard, Santa Monica, Tarzana, Topanga, portions of Westlake Village, and Woodland Hills

April 2010

## Three Bits of Good News for Open Space

### Halaco Cleanup Proceeding

A critical step in the work to restore the beautiful and historic Ormond Beach Wetlands is getting rid of the abandoned and graffiti-ridden Halaco metals recycling plant and its



contaminated buildings. The EPA has finished the demo of two of the buildings and reduced them to heaps of rubble that will be transferred for recovery and recycling of as much of the material as possible for reuse. Large metal smelting pots, like the one in the foreground of the photo, have considerable recycling value and will help EPA recover some of its costs of the cleanup not recoverable from the property owner. It's possible now to begin to see the views of the ocean and lagoon that have been blocked by this old industrial use for decades and that are part of the promise of the restored Ormond Beach Wetlands.

### State Rejects Second LNG Offshore Terminal

For the second time in three years, the State Lands Commission killed a proposal to construct a monstrous LNG terminal off the Oxnard Coast that would have blighted the view of the Oxnard Coast, and been a major source of ocean pollution, and hazard for marine life and migrating whales so near the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Our energy future is in conservation and clean and sustainable fuels, not more oil and gas operations, especially along California's magnificent coast, that line the pockets of foreign corporations.



SOURCE: [www.coastal.ca.gov](http://www.coastal.ca.gov)



## **Agoura Hills Purchases 71 Acres of Pristine Open Space**

Congratulations to the Agoura Hills City Council for snapping up a magnificent piece of rolling open space on its border, and that was slated for development, when the project went into foreclosure. These 71 acres buffer the city's rural neighborhoods from the Calabasas landfill, and will protect a critical wildlife corridor for animals that range across the Santa Monicas. It will create an important linkage of hiking and equestrian trails for area families, and is a wonderful acquisition for the entire region.

## **New Assembly Speaker Makes Committee Assignments**

I was enormously pleased when my colleague, Assemblymember John Perez, was selected as the new Speaker of the California Assembly. Speaker Perez is highly intelligent, personable, and will lead the Assembly with a long-term vision to help build our state back up as we begin the slow recovery from the world-wide economic crisis that has hit California so hard.

He just released the new Committee assignments. I'm very honored to have been reappointed to Chair of the Assembly Education Commission. I will also be serving on the Budget Committee, and Budget Subcommittee #2 on Education Finance and Budget Subcommittee #4 on State Administration. My other Committees will be Judiciary, Natural Resources, and I am a voting member of the State Allocation Board.

## **2010-2001 Legislative Package**

I've finalized the bills that I'll be carrying in this upcoming session. Here's a summary of what I've introduced. Your comments are always helpful.

### **AJR 19 – Defense of Marriage Act**

This resolution calls on the U.S. Congress and President to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, which excludes same-sex couples married in California from accessing 1,000 federal rights and benefits accorded to other married couples. These include rights to access Social Security benefits, to receive health insurance from a federal employee spouse and to file joint federal income tax returns.

### **AB 139 – Offsite Board Meetings**

Residents in large counties can find it difficult to travel long distances to participate in local government decision making. AB 139 would authorize county boards to meet outside of the county seat, but within the limits of the county, to help insure that people can attend meetings and be heard on issues that are important to them.

### **ACR 145 – Clean and Healthy Schools**

More than 1 in 5 Californians – including 6 million children – spend their day in a school. Most schools still use conventional cleaning products that contain a variety of hazardous chemicals that can cause asthma, cancer, reproductive harm and other serious harm. This resolution will recognize April 26, 2010 as California Healthy Schools Day and encourage schools to take steps to improve indoor air quality, lower costs for cleaning, and safeguard health by switching to independently certified green cleaning products.

### **AB 220 – Public Education Facilities**

This bill makes improvements to the School Facility Program, which governs the allocation and administration of state education bond funds used for the construction and modernization of K-12 school facilities. The changes address problems raised at the State Allocation Board.

### **AB 314 – Instructional Materials**

Will give school districts greater participation in adopting instructional materials for Kindergarten through 8th grade and greater flexibility in purchasing them. The bill will streamline the adoption process and give school districts an additional year after adoption to purchase instructional materials. It will also provide more transparency by requiring reports from expert reviewers of approved instructional materials to be made available to school districts and the public.

### **AB 572 – Charter School Conflict of Interest**

As the number of charter schools have grown, so too have reports of some charter school board members engaging in financial mismanagement. This bill will require charter school governing boards, just like public school districts, to comply with laws governing open meetings, public records, conflict of interest and political reform.

### **AB 1933 – Foster Care School of Origin**

Foster children may remain in their school of origin even when placed with a family in a different neighborhood for the duration of the school year. This bill would grant an extension of that time for as long as a court has jurisdiction.

### **AB 1998 – Plastic Bags**

Plastic bags litter our land and ocean, injure and kill marine life and cost Californians \$25 million a year to clean up. This bill will bar stores from handing out single-use plastic or paper bags and instead require stores to provide reusable bags for purchase.

### **AB 2084 – Child Nutrition**

Nearly 20 percent of children between the ages of 2 and 5 are overweight, and we need to encourage healthy eating habits as early in a child's life as possible. This bill requires licensed child care facilities to provide healthy beverages by offering water at every meal and throughout the day, providing only one percent milk or non-fat milk to children ages 2 and older, and by limiting fruit juice to 100 percent juice once a day.

### **AB 2229 – CPS Investigations/HIV**

The health needs of infants born to drug-addicted mothers and of children who have been abused are often neglected because essential information is not being shared with agencies responsible for their welfare. This bill requires specified medical workers to disclose all health conditions of a child, including potential exposure to HIV infection, and to facilitate communication in child abuse investigative teams.

### **AB 2297 – Non-resident/foreign student fees**

California's property taxpayers help support educational services provided to non-resident students enrolled in the state's community colleges. This bill would give community colleges greater authority to charge non-residents a fee that could be used to maintain the quality of education provided at the colleges.

### **AB 2335 – Education Finance**

California's school finance system is extremely complex, outdated and an impediment to significant progress in K-12 education. This bill would require the state Superintendent of Public Instruction to study development of a new system of school financing and report findings and recommendations to the Legislature and Governor by December 1, 2011.

### **AB 2394 – Ministerial Acts**

The Code of Civil Procedure is outdated when it comes to technology and the needs of a modern society, making it cumbersome and burdensome for the courts, law enforcement and the public. This bill would benefit the public by updating the Code, allowing sheriff's deputies to electronically transmit documents and records for process serving, revising and recasting procedures for issuing and returning post-judgment writs, and requiring writs of execution, possession or sale and written instructions from a judgment creditor to a sheriff's deputy to include additional information about the type of legal entity of the judgment debtor, including whether the case is limited or unlimited.

### **AB 2463 – Childcare Resource and Referral Clean Up**

Child Care Resource and Referral agencies are located in every county in California. Over the last two decades, these services have evolved from a grassroots effort to help parents find child care to a well-developed system that supports parents, providers, and local communities in finding, planning for, and providing affordable, quality child care. This bill will clarify and codify the role and expertise of these programs.

### **AB 2553 – Kindergarten Readiness**

Children enter California schools at different levels of development and knowledge. Some students take direction well and can focus on a task, while others aren't as ready to learn in a structured environment. This bill would require the California Department of Education to develop a voluntary kindergarten assessment and observation tool and collect data to help policy makers discover how to help children be better prepared to learn.

### **AB 2554 – Los Angeles County Flood Control District**

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District faces critical storm water and urban runoff pollution challenges because of the dense residential, commercial and industrial land use in the region. This bill will make changes to the code so the District can assert its powers and responsibilities more efficiently to eliminate pollution.

### **AB 2598 – Sea Level Rise**

Climate change is causing the sea level to rise, threatening coastal communities and infrastructure, including transportation facilities; electric utility systems and power plants; and storm water systems. This bill would require each trustee of granted public trust lands to prepare a plan with estimates of the impact of sea level rise on granted public trust lands, its financial cost and strategies to prevent or mitigate damage to development and infrastructure.



## Woman of the Year

Every year, members of both the State Assembly and State Senate have the opportunity to name their "Woman of the Year" for recognition at a floor ceremony in the State Capitol.



This year, I was very proud to name Nancy Greenstein as my 2010 "Woman of the Year."

Nancy Greenstein is the Director of Police Community Services for the UCLA Police Department, and was recognized nationally with the prestigious Jeanne Clery Award for her campus safety work including in the area of sexual assaults. Due to Nancy's extensive work experiences with colleges and local municipalities, she is routinely called upon to consult with local law enforcement agencies and community groups on public safety topics, community partnerships and community relationships.

Nancy is involved in numerous civic and community organizations. She is serving her second term on the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees and is involved with countless community projects and programs including in areas such as affordable housing, civil liberties and civil rights, public safety, education, youth, social services, transportation and the environment. She is a past president and current board member of the Southern California ACLU affiliate.

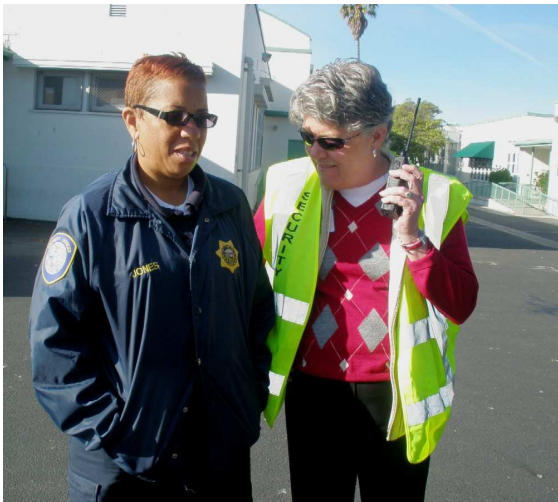
## Always Nice to be Recognized

I was very honored to be named last month by the California Federation of Teachers as their "**Legislator of the Year.**" They based their selection on what they felt was my collaborative approach to drafting my Race to the Top legislation on education reforms that would strengthen California's application for these Federal dollars, and for involving the broadest range possible of stakeholders to insure maximum input from the education community and especially our teachers.

And in May I will receive the national **Easter Seals "Assembly Advocate Award for 2009"** for legislation I carried on behalf of workers with disabilities. The Medi-Cal California Working Disabled program was established to enable Californians with disabilities to "buy in" to Medi-Cal whether or not they receive disability income benefits as long as their earned incomes fall below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. However, many workers could not meet eligibility requirements. AB 1269 extends eligibility to enrolled participants who are temporarily unemployed, and exempts retirement income so individuals 65 years and older can still work and qualify for the program. AB 1269 was signed into law by the Governor last year.



*Assemblywoman Brownley receives honor from CFT President Marty Hittelman*



*Officer Chauncy Jones and Assemblywoman Julia Brownley*

## Walking in Another Person's Shoes...

As a former school board member and president of the board, I learned a great deal about how schools operate. I recently had the opportunity, however, to participate in the "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" program, which aims to have legislators really understand a day in the life of some of the support staff who are members of the Service Employees International Union. I donned the fluorescent yellow work vest of a security officer at John Adams Middle School in Santa Monica, was handed a walkie talkie and got a first-hand perspective on what these important workers do.

Starting at 7:30 a.m. sharp, I partnered with one of the officers as we watched for tardy students, prepared for an afternoon assembly, and escorted a student who was acting up to the front office. At lunch, we patrolled the lunch room and greeted the students, and then spent the rest of the day all over the campus.

I was very impressed by how many different jobs security officers perform, including setting up AV equipment and sometimes helping counsel students. And I enjoyed the chance to thank some of them personally for the important services that they provide every day.

## A Visit to the Capitol

It's always nice to have people come up to our beautiful State Capitol. On March 24, the annual California Optometric Association Keyperson Day took place in Sacramento. A group of Doctors of Optometry and students from my district came to discuss issues of concern to Optometry with specific emphasis on the budget and preserving funding for the Healthy Families Program.

One of the students was Amanda Orgel, daughter of my Field Representative and Education Deputy, Cheri Orgel. Amanda is in her third year of the four-year program at the Southern California College of Optometry (one of just 19 optometry schools in the US and Canada). As a Neuroscience Major, Amanda became interested in Optometry during an internship at an optometrist's office while she was an undergraduate at Pomona College in Claremont, CA, which helped inspire her to choose optometry as her profession. She has one more year of Optometry school and ultimately hopes to make her way back to the 41st District to hang her shingle.



*L-r: Dr. Steve Langsford, Dr. Fred Dubick, , Assemblywoman Brownley, Amanda Orgel, Dr. Robert Shapiro, Rebecca Delshad*

## ***Committee and Legislative Appointments***

Chair, Assembly Education Committee  
Chair, Assembly Education Committee of the 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session  
Chair, Select Committee on Higher Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Chair, Select Committee on Cleanup of Santa Susana Field Laboratory

Member:

Assembly Budget Committee  
Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Budget Subcommittee #2 – Education Finance  
Budget Subcommittee #4 – State Administration  
Select Committee on Community Colleges  
Select Committee on Domestic Violence  
Select Committee on Improving State Government  
Select Committee on Lowering California's High School Dropout Rates  
Joint Select Committee on Reform

Member, State Allocation Board  
California Commission on the Status of Women

Legislative Liaison, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission  
Legislative Participant, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

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